

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 ARA-06
ACDA-07 AF-08 IO-13 DHA-02 /089 W
-----071659Z 104236 /43

O R 071536Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3690
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION SINAI
DIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR EG US
SUBJ: MEDIA ON SADAT VISIT

REF: CAIRO 5841

SUMMARY: CAIRO MEDIA APRIL 7 UNANIMOUS THAT SADAT VISIT
A SUCCESS. LENGTHY REPORTING SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE APPEARS
SERVE SEVERAL GOE PURPOSES: HEARTENING EGYPTIAN MILITARY
WITH HOPE ARMS ASSISTANCE; CHEERING PALESTINIAN AUDIENCE
BY "INSISTENCE" THEY SHOULD BE AT MEPC BUT REALISTICALLY
INSISTING ON JORDAN/WB LINK; AND FIRMNESS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.
FROM USG STANDPOINT, SADAT'S NON-POLEMICAL STYLE, EXPRESSION
"OMplete CONFIDENCE IN PRES CARTER", REFUSAL SPECIFY HOW
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PALESTINIANS MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN MEPC, AND CAREFUL PHRASEOLOGY
ON ARMS SHOULD FACILITATE OUR BROKER ROLE. STRONG CONDEMN-
ATION SOVIET/CUBAN MACHINATIONS IN AFRICA ALSO HELPGUL TO
US. END SUMMARY

1. CAIRO MEDIA APRIL 7 SUSTAINING TREATMENT OF SADAT VISIT
AS HIGHLY BENEFICIAL FOR ME SETTLEMENT PROSPECTS. PRESS

BANNERS SADAT FINDS "TALKS WITH CARTER EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING."
VARIOUS SADAT STATEMENTS REPORTED IN GREAT DETAIL BUT
PRESS TODAY FOCUSES ON ISSUES OF PEACE PROCESS, BORDERS AND
PALESTINIANS RATHER THAN ARMS FOR EGYPT.

2. PEACE PROCESS: PRESS TREATED SADAT STATEMENTS ON GENEVA
AS BREAKTHROUGH, HIGHLIGHTING PRESIDENT CARTER "AGREEMENT"
ON BEGINNING PREPARATIONS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE AT ONCE.
SADAT PASSING MENTION OF DISAGREEMENT WITH CARTER OVER
"DEFENSIBLE BORDERS" GLOSSED OVER IN FAVOR OF MAJOR ATTENTION
TO SADAT CONCEPT OF DMZ'S ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER TIED TO
INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES OF ISRAELI SECURITY.

3. ARMS: YESTERDAY'S SPOTLIGHT ON POSSIBILITY OF US-
EGYPTIAN ARMS RELATIONSHIP SOMEWHAT DIMMED. MAJOR HEADLINES
NOTE SUBJECT DISCUSSED, ACCORDING TO SADAT, BUT THAT NO
OFFICIAL "SHOPPING LIST" PRESENTED. NO SPECULATION ON
SIGNIFICANCE SADAT REMARK THAT MATTER WILL BE SUBJECT OF
CONTINUOUS CONTACT AND DISCUSSION.

4. PALESTINIANS: SADAT URGING US TO UNDERTAKE DIALOGUE
WITH PALESTINIANS. PRESS ALSO FEATURED SADAT CALL FOR
PALESTINIAN STATE IN GAZA AND WEST BANK CONNECTED BY
CORRIDOR.

5. AFRICA: REPORTING ALSO FEATURED SADAT'S EXPRESSIONS OF
CONCERN OVER CUBAN/SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA AND DETERMINATION
DEFEND SUDAN AGAINST ANY ATTEMPTS TO TURN IT INTO ANOTHER
ANGOLA OR ZAIRE.
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6. ISRAEL/USSR: PRESS REPORTED WITH EVIDENT SATISFACTION
THAT ISRAELI MINDEF PERES "REJECTS US VIEW OF MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM AND REJECTS CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE." MOSCOW
SEEN DISCOMFITED BY EVENTS IN REPORT OF PRAVDA EDITORIAL
CRITICIZING SADAT FOR ACCEPTING ASSISTANCE FROM "US
IMPERIALISTS."

7. EDITORIALS: COMMENTARY WAS CONFINED TO AHRAH, WHICH
EDITORIALIZED SUCCINCTLY THAT "SADAT'S JOURNEY IS A SUCCESS."
TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ACHIEVED THEIR OBJECTIVES" AND
WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF ARAB POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST.
MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT WAS GETTING "SPECIFIC ANSWERS
WHOSE IMPACT WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO REALITY IN COMING WEEKS
AND MONTHS."

8. COMMENT: THRUST OF MEDIA COVERAGE IS THAT US AND EGYPT
HAVE BECOME CLOSER ON MAJORITY OF ISSUES AND THAT SADAT
IS JUSTIFIED IN REPEATEDLY PROCLAIMING HIMSELF GREATLY

ENCOURAGED BY HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. FOR HIS NON-EGYPTIAN ARAB AUDIENCES, SADAT SEEMS TO HAVE STRUCK HAPPY RHETORICAL MEDIUM, PLAYING TO PALESTINIANS BY INSISTING ON USG/PLO DIALOGUE, CREATION WB/GAZA STATE, AND "INCLUSION OF PALESTINIANS IN GENEVA CONFERENCE", BUT ALSO PLEASING ARAB REALISTS BY "INSISTING" ON "OFFICIAL, DEFINED" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PALESTINIAN STATE AND JORDAN.

9. US POSITION IN EGYPT HAS RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL BOOST FROM EVENTS IN WASHINGTON AND TREATMENT OF VISIT HERE, ESPECIALLY IN CRUCIAL MILITARY CIRCLES. WE CAN EXPECT BENEVOLENT TREATMENT OF US TO CONTINUE AS TRIP WILL BE REHASHED AFTER SADAT RETURNS (EVENING OF APRIL 9) AND GOE WILL SHED BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT ON US VISITS BY OTHER ARAB LEADERS. OBVIOUS PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THAT EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED EVEN AMONGST MORE SOBER EGYPTIAN OBSERVERS AND THAT SADAT, WITH US HELP, HAS PLACED EGYPT'S AMERICAN CONNECTION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE MORE THAN EVER ON THE LINE. US WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE ADDING FORM TO SUBSTANCE PUBLICLY, AND IN WAYS EGYPTIAN PEOPLE CAN SEE AND UNDERSTAND, IN ORDER TO PREVENT ULTIMATE DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT HERE.

10. FROM USG POINT OF VIEW, SADAT'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS SEEM TAILOR MADE FACILITATE OUR BROKER ROLE: ON BORDERS, HE AVOIDED DEBATE, SAYING "IMPORTANT THING IS THAT MY CONFIDENCE IN PRES CARTER IS COMPLETE;" ON ARMS, "I HAVE NOT OFFICIALLY APPLIED. . . NEGOTIATIONS MUST CONTINUE . . . I HAVE FOUND ENCOURAGEMENT;" ON PROCEDURAL PALESTINIAN ISSUE, HE SPECIFIED IT "NECESSARY FIND WAY INCLUDE PALESTINIANS" (NO PLO) IN MEPC (NO REFERENCE TO "ON EQUAL FOOTING FROM THE OUTSET"); ON AFRICA, HE SPOKE OUT ON SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE AND HORN. MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770479/aaaacqqs.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 79cfc9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 5841
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2871932
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA ON SADAT VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, US, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79cfc9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009